

Minnesota Labor Market Review

March 1988 Supplement

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Nation

Unemployment Rate Falls Further In February; Payroll Employment Climbs Sharply

The civilian unemployment rate edged down to 5.7 percent in February from 5.8 percent in January after seasonal adjustment and was well below the 6.6 percent of February 1987. Also in February, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by a huge 531,000 following an upward revision of 174,000 in January. However, the very large February gains in construction (107,000) and retail trade (111,000) may have been exaggerated because post-Christmas job reductions at retail stores were smaller than usual and good weather boosted construction employment. Meanwhile, employment in manufacturing grew relatively slowly for the second straight month, rising by only 20,000 in February after an 18,000 gain in January.

Other Indicators Also Show Strength In February

Perhaps the significant development in February was the rise in housing starts after two months of decline. Also on the bright side, both retail sales and personal consumption expenditures which includes services rose healthily after weak showings in January. Meanwhile, industrial production continued to rise at a moderate pace.

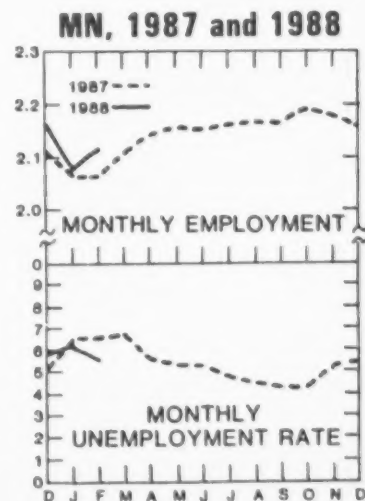
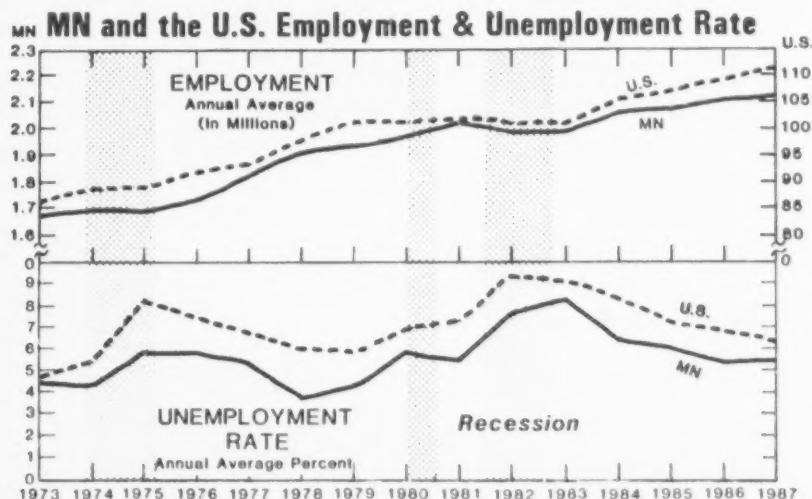
State

Unemployment Rate Drops Sharply; Payroll Employment Growth Slows Again

The state's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate fell from 6.1 percent in January to 5.5 percent in February. In February 1987 the rate was 6.7 percent. Recently revised data from a separate survey, the establishment survey, showed that seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 2,925 in February after increases of 3,428 in January and 6,475 in December. February's rise was the smallest since a gain of 2,171 in September. The largest over-the-month increases were in business and miscellaneous services, all government, and retail trade. Employment in manufacturing which had posted strong gains in the four previous months declined slightly in February. Construction employment fell sharply for the second month in a row in February. Since February 1987 payroll employment has risen by 62,734. The largest over-the-year gains were in the services industry (22,888), manufacturing (13,745) and trade (12,731).

Labor Force Estimates	MINNESOTA (Numbers in Thousands)			UNITED STATES (Numbers in Millions)		
	Feb. 1988	Change From		Feb. 1988	Change From	
		Last Mo.	Year Ago		Last Mo.	Year Ago
Civilian Labor Force	2,241.3	8.6	25.2	119.9	0.2	2.0
Employed	2,116.9	20.1	49.5	112.5	0.3	3.0
Unemployed	124.3	-11.6	-24.4	7.5	-0.1	-1.0
Unemployment Rate						
Actual	5.5	-0.6	-1.2	6.2	-0.1	-1.0
Seasonally Adjusted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5.7	-0.1	-0.9

* Components may not add to Civilian Labor Force due to rounding.



Minnesota Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT ^{1/} (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS ^{2/}					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Av. Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hrs.	
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Feb. 1987
Total Nonagricultural	1,955.1	1,951.0	1,893.0	0.2	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	377.6	376.6	364.2	0.3	3.7	425.08	419.40	10.47	10.33	40.6	40.6
Durable Goods	225.2	224.6	215.8	0.3	4.3	447.26	448.56	10.70	10.68	41.8	42.0
Lumber and Furniture	21.5	21.4	18.8	0.1	14.2	438.88	439.28	11.58	11.56	37.9	38.0
Stone, Clay and Glass	7.2	7.3	6.8	0.6	5.7	413.66	398.63	10.29	10.63	40.2	37.5
Primary Metals	6.8	6.8	6.3	0.9	8.9	434.82	406.51	9.62	9.41	45.2	43.2
Fabricated Metals	34.0	33.9	32.4	0.0	5.0	520.03	499.14	12.01	11.80	43.3	42.3
Nonelectrical Machinery	80.0	79.4	79.8	0.8	0.2	461.47	469.69	11.04	11.13	41.8	42.2
Office and Computing	38.7	38.6	40.6	0.3	-4.6	504.08	535.95	11.75	11.99	42.9	44.7
Electrical Machinery	29.6	29.5	27.1	0.1	9.2	369.36	384.06	8.63	8.65	42.8	44.4
Transportation Equipment	10.3	10.2	9.5	0.8	8.2	546.98	542.00	12.75	11.86	42.9	45.7
Scientific Instruments	30.5	30.6	29.7	0.3	2.6	422.69	419.89	10.21	9.95	41.4	42.2
Misc. Manufacturing	5.4	5.4	5.5	0.9	-1.5	425.70	417.28	10.04	10.38	42.4	40.2
Nondurable Goods	152.3	152.0	148.3	0.2	2.7	396.87	382.57	10.15	9.86	39.1	38.8
Food and Kindred	43.9	43.7	43.0	0.6	2.2	357.77	349.87	9.15	8.88	39.1	39.4
Textiles and Apparel	4.7	4.6	4.5	2.5	2.6	278.16	245.59	7.32	6.71	38.0	36.6
Paper and Allied	32.1	32.2	32.0	0.4	0.1	497.20	483.07	11.81	11.42	42.1	42.3
Printing and Publishing	45.7	45.5	44.3	0.3	3.2	390.16	363.94	10.66	10.31	36.6	35.3
Chemicals and Petroleum	10.6	10.8	10.2	1.2	4.5	515.42	468.52	12.39	11.54	41.6	40.6
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	15.4	15.3	14.3	0.6	7.2	343.54	331.96	8.61	8.49	39.9	39.1
Nonmanufacturing	1,577.5	1,574.4	1,528.8	0.2	3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	6.0	6.0	4.5	0.2	33.2	544.32	567.01	12.60	13.31	43.2	42.6
Metal Mining	4.9	4.9	3.4	0.1	44.0	563.77	609.90	13.02	14.25	43.3	42.8
Construction	62.7	65.7	63.6	4.6	-1.4	581.16	608.40	16.01	15.56	36.3	39.1
Transp., Comm., Pub. Util.	100.4	100.6	98.4	0.2	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	66.3	66.5	65.5	0.3	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	25.3	25.7	25.6	1.4	-1.2	415.69	391.20	12.83	12.00	32.4	32.6
Comm. & Public Util.	34.1	34.1	32.9	0.0	3.5	573.52	573.50	14.41	14.63	39.8	39.2
Trade	480.4	484.2	467.9	0.8	2.7	223.94	220.90	7.83	7.67	28.6	28.8
Wholesale	120.2	120.6	117.7	0.3	2.1	408.18	402.57	10.77	10.65	37.9	37.8
Retail	360.2	363.6	350.2	0.9	2.9	168.99	168.47	6.55	6.43	25.8	26.2
Building Materials	15.6	15.9	15.7	2.0	-0.5	293.02	313.92	8.42	8.72	34.8	36.0
General Merchandise	54.9	57.2	52.5	4.0	4.6	139.15	128.47	6.13	5.61	22.7	22.9
Food Stores	49.2	49.4	47.0	0.3	4.8	193.22	193.01	7.13	7.07	27.1	27.3
Automotive	39.3	39.2	38.3	0.3	2.6	314.52	307.33	8.81	8.42	35.7	36.5
Apparel	19.1	19.5	18.6	1.9	3.0	114.06	120.51	5.51	5.15	20.7	23.4
Home Furnishings	16.6	16.8	15.7	0.9	6.1	225.29	216.09	7.56	7.35	29.8	29.4
Eating and Drinking	117.7	117.5	115.6	0.2	1.8	106.59	100.69	4.78	4.64	22.3	21.7
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	121.7	121.5	117.5	0.1	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance	56.5	56.5	54.6	0.0	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	45.3	45.1	43.3	0.4	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Real Estate	19.9	19.9	19.6	0.1	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services	478.5	476.2	457.0	0.5	4.7	^{1/} Totals may not add because of rounding. ^{2/} Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.					
Personal Services	25.4	25.2	24.5	0.7	3.8						
Business Services	93.4	92.3	85.7	1.2	9.1						
Repair Services	19.9	19.9	19.7	0.1	1.4						
Health Services	150.9	151.2	146.4	0.2	3.1						
Hospitals	51.9	51.8	50.6	0.2	2.6						
Nursing Homes	41.1	41.2	41.2	0.4	-0.3						
Legal Services	14.5	14.5	13.8	0.0	5.3						
Private Education	26.3	25.7	26.2	2.1	0.1						
Government	327.8	320.2	319.8	2.4	2.5						
Federal	33.6	33.5	32.4	0.5	3.7						
State	82.6	80.8	80.4	2.2	2.7						
Education	46.4	45.1	45.4	3.0	2.3						
Local	211.6	205.9	207.0	2.8	2.2						
Education	117.0	111.7	114.6	4.7	2.1						

Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

By Kevin Alaspa

The Unemployment Rate Drops Unexpectedly In February
A decline of 0.4 percent in the unemployment rate took place this month, which was uncharacteristic for this time of the year. Generally, the unemployment rate either rises or stays the same between January and February, and such a dramatic departure from this trend has not occurred since 1980. Growth in employment exceeded growth in the labor force, causing the number and percentage of unemployment to fall.

Total Wage And Salary Employment Changes Only Slightly

In contrast to the labor force data, the non-agricultural wage and salary figures showed no overall change. Shifts occurred within particular industries, but no overall growth was evident in February. Manufacturing employment increased by 500, almost entirely in the nondurable sector. Retail trade employment was down by 3,000, while construction declined by approximately 2,000 jobs. Seasonal factors were responsible for these declines, in that work in these two categories usually reaches a low point at this time of the year. The services sector as a whole increased slightly, although employment in health services firms

declined somewhat. The government sector experienced employment gains, and these occurred primarily in local school districts.

Another positive sign was the downward trend in unemployment claims. The average weekly number of initial claims was down 21 percent from January's level, a greater than usual decrease. Also, average hours worked and average hourly wages in manufacturing increased slightly.

Even though employment growth slowed down in the winter months, wage and salary employment in the major industrial categories was at higher levels than a year ago. This clearly reflected the strong economic picture of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Year-to-year employment gains of between three and four percent have occurred in manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, finance and services, which represent the majority of the metropolitan area's key businesses. The diversity of industries in the Twin Cities metropolitan area contributes to steady overall employment growth, and ensures that temporary setbacks in any one industry do not adversely affect the total employment situation.

Labor Force Estimates

AREA	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMP. RATE		
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987
Mpls.-St. Paul MSA*	1,285,571	1,274,516	1,256,272	57,499	62,413	66,274	4.3	4.7	5.0
REGION 11	1,207,743	1,197,218	1,180,006	50,598	54,855	58,432	4.0	4.4	4.7
Anoka	121,013	119,959	118,234	6,220	6,622	6,739	4.9	5.2	5.4
Carver	22,195	22,002	21,685	1,113	1,178	1,350	4.8	5.1	5.9
Dakota	127,276	126,166	124,353	6,062	6,473	7,004	4.5	4.9	5.3
Hennepin	581,063	575,999	567,718	21,560	23,225	25,119	3.6	3.9	4.2
Ramsey	262,618	260,329	256,587	10,626	11,823	12,883	3.9	4.3	4.8
Scott	26,110	25,883	25,511	1,885	2,116	2,178	6.7	7.6	7.9
Washington	67,468	66,880	65,918	3,132	3,418	3,159	4.4	4.9	4.6
Chisago	13,231	13,115	12,927	1,417	1,513	1,560	9.7	10.3	10.8
Isanti	11,410	11,311	11,148	969	1,108	1,067	7.8	8.9	8.9
Wright	30,210	29,945	29,515	2,838	3,090	3,029	8.6	9.4	9.3
St. Croix, WI	22,977	22,927	22,676	1,677	1,847	2,166	6.8	7.5	8.7
Bloomington	54,766	54,288	53,508	1,948	2,091	2,150	3.4	3.7	3.9
Minneapolis	202,596	200,831	197,943	8,055	8,607	9,793	8	4.1	4.7
St. Paul	139,420	138,205	136,218	6,409	7,261	8,063	4.4	5.0	5.6

* Chisago, Isanti and Wright counties are a part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA, and are also included in Region 7.

Note: Add employment and unemployment to calculate civilian labor force.

Mpls.-St. Paul Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Av. Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hrs.	
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Feb. 1987
Total Nonagricultural	1,285.5	1,285.9	1,245.4	0.0	3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	257.2	256.7	248.8	0.2	3.4	454.40	449.85	11.11	11.08	40.9	40.6
Durable Goods	160.6	160.4	154.8	0.1	3.7	470.68	470.38	11.18	11.12	42.1	42.3
Lumber and Furniture	9.2	9.2	8.5	0.0	7.9	465.41	477.80	12.28	12.22	37.9	39.1
Stone, Clay and Glass	3.0	3.0	2.7	1.2	13.0	412.57	479.94	10.34	12.63	39.9	38.0
Primary Metals	4.9	4.9	4.7	0.7	5.0	435.68	402.86	9.41	9.24	46.3	43.6
Fabricated Metals	26.1	26.2	25.3	-0.3	3.2	547.31	531.53	12.64	12.39	43.3	42.9
Nonelectrical Machinery	63.2	62.8	62.5	0.6	1.2	478.13	476.00	11.33	11.20	42.2	42.5
Office and Computing	31.9	31.7	32.3	0.6	-1.3	484.27	497.51	11.21	11.13	43.2	44.7
Electrical Machinery	17.0	17.1	15.0	-0.8	13.4	364.18	365.86	8.97	8.88	40.6	41.2
Transportation Equipment	5.8	5.7	5.5	1.8	5.2	801.28	724.45	16.09	14.46	49.8	50.1
Scientific Instruments	28.2	28.4	27.4	-0.6	2.9	431.80	428.87	10.43	10.26	41.4	41.8
Misc. Manufacturing	3.2	3.2	3.3	-0.4	-2.7	457.00	392.35	10.00	9.50	45.7	41.3
Nondurable Goods	96.6	96.2	94.0	0.4	2.8	430.88	419.86	11.02	11.02	39.1	38.1
Food and Kindred	18.3	18.0	18.2	1.9	0.6	446.72	420.42	11.03	10.59	40.5	39.7
Textiles and Apparel	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2	4.3	265.27	236.83	7.15	6.69	37.1	35.4
Paper and Allied	24.9	25.0	24.9	-0.2	0.0	457.97	452.92	11.28	11.02	40.6	41.1
Printing and Publishing	31.7	31.6	30.8	0.3	2.8	404.07	396.44	11.01	11.66	36.7	34.0
Chemicals and Petroleum	8.9	9.0	8.6	-1.3	3.5	556.78	513.14	13.58	12.67	41.0	40.5
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	10.8	10.7	9.5	0.4	13.5	387.20	387.50	9.68	9.81	40.0	39.5
Nonmanufacturing	1,028.3	1,029.3	996.6	-0.1	3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.6	4.2	-15.8	208.78	208.78	8.03	8.03	26.0	26.0
Construction	44.5	46.7	43.8	-4.8	1.7	614.25	644.29	17.11	17.09	35.9	37.7
Transp., Comm., Pub. Util.	71.0	70.9	68.6	0.2	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	48.2	48.2	47.6	-0.1	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	15.7	15.9	15.7	-0.9	-0.2	402.80	365.09	13.25	12.81	30.4	28.5
Comm. & Public Util.	22.9	22.7	21.0	0.9	8.8	555.62	566.71	14.32	14.42	38.8	39.3
Trade	315.1	318.8	304.3	-1.2	3.6	248.81	240.32	6.55	8.23	29.1	29.2
Wholesale	84.9	85.6	80.9	-0.8	4.9	439.53	433.86	11.27	11.24	39.0	38.6
Retail	230.2	233.2	223.4	-1.3	3.1	187.26	181.90	7.23	6.89	25.9	26.4
Building Materials	9.9	10.0	9.2	-1.5	6.6	313.48	332.60	9.22	9.53	34.0	34.9
General Merchandise	39.4	41.4	38.2	-4.9	3.1	148.65	149.69	6.38	5.87	23.3	25.5
Food Stores	26.9	27.2	26.9	-1.0	-0.1	241.40	235.98	8.53	8.28	28.3	28.5
Automotive	23.1	23.0	22.3	0.4	3.6	372.51	350.76	10.15	9.48	36.7	37.0
Apparel	12.7	12.8	12.3	-1.1	2.8	108.25	116.53	5.58	5.37	19.4	21.7
Home Furnishings	11.6	11.7	11.0	-0.9	5.7	219.89	183.21	7.77	6.52	28.3	28.1
Eating and Drinking	75.8	76.0	74.3	-0.3	2.0	122.75	105.15	5.48	4.96	22.4	21.2
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	95.4	95.1	91.4	0.2	4.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance	41.3	41.2	38.9	0.2	6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	38.0	37.9	36.4	0.4	4.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Real Estate	16.0	16.1	16.1	-0.1	-0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services	323.2	322.8	312.2	0.1	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	17.8	17.7	17.5	0.6	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Business Services	78.4	77.7	74.7	0.9	4.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repair Services	15.0	15.0	14.7	-0.1	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health Services	85.3	85.8	82.9	-0.5	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospitals	30.9	30.9	30.3	0.0	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nursing Homes	22.0	22.3	21.8	-1.4	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Services	11.4	11.4	10.8	-0.3	5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private Education	15.9	16.0	16.2	-0.8	-1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government	178.6	174.5	175.8	2.4	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal	20.7	20.5	19.6	0.7	5.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
State	55.2	53.9	52.8	2.4	4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education	30.9	29.8	29.5	3.6	4.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local	102.7	100.0	103.4	2.7	-0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education	55.6	53.2	56.2	4.5	-1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.



Labor Force Estimates

AREA	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMP. RATE		
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987
St. Cloud MSA*	88,876	86,857	83,324	6,174	6,598	6,862	6.5	7.1	7.6
REGION 1	37,052	36,451	35,969	4,531	5,149	4,963	10.9	12.4	12.1
Kittson	2,185	2,163	2,146	309	339	409	12.4	13.5	16.0
Marshall	3,959	3,866	3,935	987	1,105	1,027	20.0	22.2	20.7
Norman	3,169	3,139	3,115	372	384	393	10.5	10.9	11.2
Pennington	5,632	5,565	5,446	742	851	812	11.6	13.3	13.0
Polk	13,374	13,121	13,171	1,244	1,421	1,464	8.5	9.8	10.0
Red Lake	1,249	1,225	1,207	332	417	414	21.0	25.4	25.5
Roseau	7,484	7,372	6,949	545	632	444	6.8	7.9	6.0
REGION 2	26,327	26,109	25,600	3,154	3,427	3,863	10.7	11.6	13.1
Beltrami	14,179	14,015	13,851	1,238	1,364	1,562	8.0	8.9	10.1
Clearwater	2,770	2,776	2,787	807	861	928	22.6	23.7	25.0
Hubbard	5,645	5,610	5,438	706	766	881	11.1	12.0	13.9
Lake of Woods	1,651	1,644	1,489	144	152	178	8.0	8.5	10.7
Mahnomen	2,062	2,064	2,035	259	284	314	11.1	12.1	13.4
REGION 4	86,538	85,957	84,759	7,279	7,770	8,412	7.8	8.3	9.0
Becker	12,284	12,288	11,756	1,403	1,420	1,556	10.3	10.4	11.7
Clay	24,058	23,827	23,363	1,495	1,510	1,700	5.9	6.0	6.8
Douglas	13,704	13,738	13,405	951	1,089	1,116	6.5	7.3	7.7
Grant	2,492	2,477	2,472	258	276	287	9.4	10.0	10.4
Otter Tail	20,677	20,525	20,532	2,173	2,374	2,508	9.5	10.4	10.9
Pope	3,890	3,828	3,769	411	414	417	9.6	9.8	10.0
Stevens	4,609	4,527	4,634	253	296	358	5.2	6.1	7.2
Traverse	1,848	1,825	1,846	149	166	190	7.5	8.3	9.3
Wilkin	2,976	2,922	2,982	186	225	280	5.9	7.1	8.6
REGION 5	50,144	49,503	49,161	5,658	6,268	6,708	10.1	11.2	12.0
Cass	6,766	6,638	6,644	1,083	1,176	1,251	13.8	15.0	15.8
Crow Wing	17,869	17,683	17,583	1,706	1,918	2,146	8.7	9.8	10.9
Morrison	11,836	11,720	11,599	1,439	1,624	1,566	10.8	12.2	11.9
Todd	9,371	9,219	9,137	964	1,084	1,181	9.5	10.5	11.4
Wadena	4,302	4,243	4,198	446	466	564	9.4	9.9	11.8
REGION 6E	48,489	47,883	46,686	3,549	3,906	4,619	6.8	7.5	9.0
Kandiyohi	17,270	17,097	16,625	1,153	1,297	1,484	6.3	7.1	8.2
McLeod	15,462	15,194	14,794	839	878	1,074	5.1	5.5	6.8
Meeker	7,600	7,451	7,346	880	936	1,074	10.4	11.2	12.8
Renville	8,157	8,141	7,921	677	795	987	7.7	8.9	11.1
REGION 7E	46,010	45,686	44,706	5,271	5,734	5,727	10.3	11.2	11.4
Chisago	13,231	13,115	12,927	1,417	1,513	1,560	9.7	10.3	10.8
Isanti	11,410	11,311	11,148	969	1,108	1,087	7.8	8.9	8.9
Kanabec	4,951	4,960	4,911	771	795	726	13.5	13.8	12.9
Millie Lacs	8,115	8,078	7,591	846	915	1,010	9.4	10.2	11.7
Pine	8,303	8,222	8,129	1,268	1,403	1,344	13.2	14.6	14.2
REGION 7W	119,086	116,802	112,839	9,012	9,688	9,891	7.0	7.7	8.1
Benton	13,956	13,639	13,085	949	1,042	1,118	6.4	7.1	7.9
Sherburne	16,753	16,373	15,707	1,471	1,506	1,600	8.1	8.4	9.2
Stearns	58,167	56,845	54,532	3,754	4,050	4,144	6.1	6.7	7.1
Wright	30,210	29,945	29,515	2,838	3,090	3,029	8.6	9.4	9.3

* Benton, Stearns, and Sherburne counties

Note: Add employment and unemployment to calculate civilian labor force.

ST. CLOUD MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	71,860	70,722	66,874	1.6	7.5
Total Manufacturing	12,364	12,256	11,392	0.9	8.5
Durable Goods	6,940	6,837	6,454	1.5	7.5
Nondurable Goods	5,424	5,419	4,938	0.1	9.8
Total Nonmanufacturing	59,496	58,466	55,482	1.8	7.2
Construction & Mining	3,478	3,462	2,780	0.5	25.1
Transp., Comm., & Public Util.	3,380	3,425	3,347	-1.3	1.0
Total Trade	21,961	21,754	20,497	1.0	7.1
Wholesale Trade	3,468	3,453	3,299	0.4	5.1
Retail Trade	18,493	18,301	17,198	1.0	7.5
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	2,362	2,367	2,354	-0.2	0.3
Total Services	14,595	14,292	13,917	2.1	4.9
Health Services	5,125	5,112	4,767	0.3	7.5
Other Services	9,470	9,180	9,150	3.2	3.5
Government	13,720	13,166	12,587	4.2	9.0

By Ron Daws

Employment Rises While Unemployment Declines Across All Of Central And Northwest Minnesota

February labor force data suggest that there were considerably more jobs and fewer jobless workers than a month ago. This is substantiated for the St. Cloud MSA by the more reliable nonfarm payroll employment data cited below. Moreover, unemployment declined in every county over the month and year, and only a few counties exhibited any employment drop. In the St. Cloud MSA, unemployment rarely drops as much as it did between January and February of this year--from 7.1 to 6.5 percent. In fact, the unemployment rate often rises.

All major industries contributed to St. Cloud's rapidly rising job level. Unlike most other areas, St. Cloud's manufacturing employment grew faster over the year (8.5%) than did nonmanufacturing (7.2%). That is nearly twice as fast as salaried nonfarm employment grew during 1987. Although the MSA's nonfarm payroll employment dropped to its seasonal low in January at 70,722, by February there were 4,377 or 6.6 percent more jobs than during February 1987.

Aside from the relatively strong performance of manufacturing in the MSA, the strongest growth industry by far recently has been construction and mining with 25 percent more workers this February than last February. Government, health services and retail trade also not only gained jobs rapidly over the year, but combined, these industries employ over half of the MSA's salaried nonfarm workers.

Last month we postulated whether the St. Cloud area could continue to generate jobs at the fast pace begun in January. So far, the answer is yes.

Northeast Minnesota



By Ron Daws

Region 3 Unemployment Drops More Than Duluth Unemployment Over The Year

Region 3's unemployment rate officially dropped from 12.3 percent last February to 9.3 percent this February, while total employment rose by 1.8 percent over the year. In Duluth, however, the unemployment rate purportedly dropped from 7.3 percent last February to 7.2 percent this year. Small changes such as this reveal only that Duluth's unemployment rate in February was about the same both years.

Although the official estimate of total employment suggests that Duluth gained 811 jobs over the year, nonfarm payroll employment data (which doesn't include agricultural, self-employed or unpaid family workers) show that Duluth lost 637 or 1.5 percent of these jobs. The discrepancy is more likely rooted in the sampling error associated with calibrating our official total employment estimates to the state's Current Population Survey sample than to an actual employment increase due to compensating employment gains in agriculture, self-employed and unpaid family workers.

Nonfarm payroll employment data for Duluth also show that it was construction, durable goods manufacturing, wholesale trade and government job losses that brought Duluth's employment down over the year. Construction employed less than half the number of workers in February 1988 as it did the previous February.

Four major industries remained strong over the year. They were health services (up 6.1%), finance, insurance and real estate (up 5.3%), durable goods manufacturing (up 5.2%) and retail trade (up 3.5%).

Even though Duluth's unemployment rate has remained between seven and eight percent so far this year, these are the lowest comparable levels of the 1980s. Meanwhile, employment levels creep steadily upward. On balance, however, Duluth has not shared in the economic recovery from the 1981-82 recession to the extent most other areas of the state have.

Labor Force Estimates									
AREA	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMP. RATE		
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987
REGION 3	121,996	121,291	119,832	12,523	14,133	16,748	9.3	10.4	12.3
Aitkin	4,410	4,353	4,427	747	809	839	14.5	15.7	15.9
Carlton	11,043	10,956	10,654	1,277	1,357	1,327	10.4	11.0	11.1
Cook	2,045	2,058	2,086	214	248	289	9.5	10.8	12.2
Itasca	14,989	14,863	15,058	1,735	1,994	2,212	10.4	11.8	12.8
Koochiching	6,711	6,678	6,711	564	675	687	7.8	9.2	9.3
Lake	3,145	3,130	3,122	557	667	1,101	15.0	17.6	26.1
St. Louis	79,653	79,253	77,774	7,429	8,383	10,293	8.5	9.6	11.7
City of Duluth	34,381	34,209	33,570	2,687	2,987	2,651	7.2	8.0	7.3
Balance St. Louis	45,272	45,044	44,204	4,742	5,396	7,642	9.5	10.7	14.7

Note: Add employment and unemployment to calculate civilian labor force.

DULUTH AND DULUTH-SUPERIOR MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT										
INDUSTRY	DULUTH EMPLOYMENT			PERCENT CHANGE		DULUTH-SUPERIOR EMPLOYMENT			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Jan. 1988	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1987	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Jan. 1988	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1987	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	43,022	44,255	43,507	-2.8	-1.1	86,928	89,367	85,112	-2.7	2.1
Total Manufacturing	4,007	4,077	3,848	-1.7	4.1	7,665	7,712	7,138	-0.6	7.4
Durable Goods	1,624	1,631	1,651	-0.4	-1.6	4,026	4,057	3,863	-0.8	4.2
Non-durable Goods	2,383	2,446	2,197	-2.6	8.5	3,639	3,655	3,275	-0.4	11.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	39,015	40,178	39,659	-2.9	-1.6	79,263	81,655	77,974	-2.9	1.7
Construction	1,200	1,714	2,221	-30.0	-46.0	2,577	3,695	3,481	-30.3	-26.0
Transp., Comm., Pub. Util.	2,628	2,852	2,573	-7.9	2.1	5,645	5,739	5,510	-1.6	2.5
Total Trade	11,082	11,374	10,722	-2.6	3.4	21,403	22,257	21,122	-3.8	1.3
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,608	1,680	-0.5	-4.8	3,384	3,457	3,455	-2.1	-2.1
Retail Trade	9,482	9,766	9,042	-2.9	4.9	18,019	18,800	17,667	-4.2	2.0
Finan., Insur., Real Est.	1,838	1,863	1,759	-1.3	4.5	3,150	3,189	3,048	-1.2	3.3
Services, Mining, & Misc.	11,910	12,044	11,575	-1.1	2.9	20,159	20,339	19,779	-0.9	1.9
Health Services	5,417	5,385	5,135	0.6	5.5	8,685	8,640	8,320	0.5	4.4
Other Services	5,643	5,784	5,617	-2.4	0.5	9,870	10,068	9,960	-2.0	-0.9
Government	10,340	10,323	10,801	0.3	-4.2	21,999	22,216	22,111	-1.0	-0.5



By Ron Daws

Labor Force Estimates

AREA	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMP. RATE		
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987
REGION BW	21,896	21,727	21,829	1,755	2,112	2,195	7.4	8.9	9.1
Big Stone	2,576	2,561	2,626	223	232	287	8.0	8.3	9.9
Chippewa	6,045	5,998	5,995	518	713	597	7.9	10.6	9.1
Lac Qui Parle	3,761	3,703	3,770	202	235	229	5.1	6.0	5.7
Swift	4,399	4,371	4,352	374	449	529	7.8	9.3	10.8
Yellow Medicine	5,115	5,094	5,086	438	483	553	7.9	8.7	9.8
REGION 8	54,128	53,466	53,252	3,561	3,927	4,475	6.2	6.8	7.8
Cottonwood	5,859	5,789	5,692	366	414	461	5.9	6.7	7.5
Jackson	4,593	4,514	4,866	412	456	533	8.2	9.2	9.9
Lincoln	2,881	2,847	2,864	185	227	257	6.0	7.4	8.2
Lyon	10,966	10,837	10,828	757	882	983	6.5	7.5	8.3
Murray	4,155	4,085	4,078	415	455	433	9.1	10.0	9.6
Nobles	9,547	9,479	9,237	566	576	697	5.6	5.7	7.0
Pipestone	4,974	4,905	4,623	200	208	239	3.9	4.1	4.9
Redwood	6,946	6,856	6,913	449	487	617	6.1	6.6	8.2
Rock	4,207	4,154	4,151	211	222	255	4.8	5.1	5.8
REGION 9	98,558	97,335	98,172	6,133	6,946	7,806	5.9	6.7	7.4
Blue Earth	26,353	26,030	26,275	1,105	1,195	1,407	4.0	4.4	5.1
Brown	12,078	11,864	12,055	858	999	1,077	6.6	7.8	8.2
Faribault	7,131	7,054	7,276	512	570	729	6.7	7.5	9.1
Le Sueur	9,529	9,419	9,528	975	1,123	1,188	9.3	10.7	11.1
Martin	10,674	10,558	10,568	816	1,041	1,013	7.1	9.0	8.7
Nicollet	13,510	13,345	13,470	614	661	743	4.3	4.7	5.2
Sibley	5,556	5,515	5,547	566	607	716	9.2	9.9	11.4
Waseca	8,548	8,430	8,376	461	494	583	5.1	5.5	6.6
Watsonwan	5,179	5,120	5,077	226	256	340	4.2	4.8	6.3
REGION 10	198,971	197,376	194,546	11,293	11,953	14,868	5.4	5.7	7.1
Dodge	6,503	6,391	6,440	627	663	813	8.8	9.4	11.2
Fillmore	9,063	8,944	8,907	868	858	921	8.7	8.8	9.4
Freeborn	15,690	15,614	15,411	758	842	1,351	4.6	5.1	8.1
Goodhue	18,855	18,811	18,520	1,087	1,196	1,392	5.5	6.0	7.0
Houston	7,661	7,673	7,795	626	604	615	7.6	7.3	7.3
Mower	15,563	15,351	15,957	901	961	1,518	5.5	5.9	8.7
Olsted	54,930	54,775	53,253	2,178	2,330	2,791	3.8	4.1	5.0
Rice	24,261	23,928	24,077	1,461	1,579	1,870	5.7	6.2	7.2
Steele	14,602	14,152	13,793	737	746	1,024	4.8	5.0	6.9
Webasha	7,414	7,376	7,209	651	723	822	8.1	8.9	10.2
Winona	24,429	24,361	23,184	1,399	1,451	1,751	5.4	5.6	7.0
Rochester City	33,967	33,871	32,930	1,427	1,500	1,824	4.0	4.2	5.2

Note: Add employment and unemployment to calculate civilian labor force.

ROCHESTER MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	56,788	54,774	54,774	-0.4	3.7
Total Manufacturing	10,706	10,784	10,280	-0.7	4.1
Durable Goods	9,034	9,048	8,606	-0.2	5.0
Non-durable Goods	1,672	1,736	1,674	-3.7	-0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	46,082	46,217	44,494	-0.3	3.6
Construction & Mining	1,464	1,527	1,359	-4.1	7.7
Transp., Comm., & Public Util.	1,719	1,706	1,640	0.8	4.8
Total Trade	11,124	11,355	11,141	-2.0	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	1,195	1,208	1,156	-1.1	3.4
Retail Trade	9,929	10,147	9,985	-2.1	-0.6
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	1,589	1,559	1,484	1.9	7.1
Total Services	24,019	23,990	22,783	0.1	5.4
Health Services	16,984	16,951	16,049	0.2	5.8
Other Services	7,035	7,039	6,734	-0.1	4.5
Government	6,167	6,080	6,087	1.4	1.3

The Rochester MSA's Unemployment Rate Dips Below Four Percent, While Employment Increases Across Southern Minnesota

Unemployment appears to have declined across Southern Minnesota over the month and year, while employment edged upward. In the Rochester MSA, the unemployment rate may have fallen below four percent (3.8 officially) to reach the lowest by far February unemployment rate of the 1980s. Meanwhile in the MSA (Olmsted county), according to the official estimate, employment was the highest it has ever been in February, 3.1 percent above February 1987's level, the previous record for the month.

The MSA's January nonfarm payroll employment level exceeded last January's by 2,111 or 3.9 percent, and February's level was 2,227 or 3.7 percent above last February's. Manufacturing employment, although down seasonally over the month, grew by 4.1 percent over the year, entirely due to durable goods.

Causing manufacturing's relatively slower growth was the slight over-the-year drop in the retail trade sector. Government also helped hold back employment growth by increasing by only 1.3 percent. Shoring up the growth rate in nonmanufacturing employment were construction and health services which grew by 7.7 and 5.8 percent, respectively, over the year.

Obviously, the economy of Southern Minnesota (especially Rochester) got off to a running start in 1988. The MSA's first two month's unemployment rates were 4.1 and 3.8 compared to 4.7 and 5.0 in 1987, and 5.2 for both months in 1986. Nonfarm payroll employment, conversely, rose by 2.0 percent between February 1986 and February 1987, and then heated up to increase 3.7 percent between February 1987 and February 1988.



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Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Industry and Occupation, February 1988					Distribution of Insured Unemployed, by Age and Sex, February 1988				
Industry Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent Long-Term* Unemployed	Women as Percent of Total	Age Groups	Number	Percent Distribution		
							Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	59,271	100.0	12.3	19.9	TOTALS	59,271	80.0	100.0	100.0
Ag., For., Fish.	2,163	3.6	8.6	10.6	Under 45	44,929	80.8	76.5	72.9
Mining	1,105	1.9	2.9	4.0	Under 25	8,424	80.7	14.3	13.8
Construction	25,360	42.8	5.9	2.7	25-34	22,589	81.8	38.9	34.8
Manufacturing	10,730	18.1	14.5	31.4	35-44	13,916	79.3	23.3	24.3
Public Utilities	2,455	4.1	13.6	12.3	45 and over	14,342	77.6	23.5	27.1
Wholesale Trade	2,751	4.6	18.0	23.7	45-54	8,551	78.1	14.1	15.8
Retail Trade	4,605	7.8	18.8	40.3	55 and over	5,791	77.0	9.4	11.3
Fin., Ins., Re. Est.	1,774	3.0	28.2	57.0					
Services	6,570	11.1	23.6	48.6					
Public Admin.	992	1.7	24.7	30.2					
Info. Not Available	766	1.3	1.2	22.8					
					Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand **/				
Occupational Attachment					Applicants (Supply) Feb. 1988	Job Openings (Demand) Feb. 1988	Supply/Demand Ratio		
							Feb. 1988	Feb. 1988	
TOTAL, ALL OCCUPATIONS	59,271	100.0	12.3	19.9	62,401	17,610	3.5		5.4
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	6,117	10.3	26.2	37.0	10,220	1,747	5.9		7.5
Clerical	4,060	6.9	25.0	81.7	10,301	3,073	3.4		5.1
Sales	1,669	2.8	25.3	35.5	3,847	2,368	1.6		2.1
Services	2,682	4.5	24.9	56.1	7,137	5,277	1.4		2.4
Farm, For., Fish.	1,917	3.2	11.8	10.7	1,537	189	8.1		9.7
Processing	2,036	3.4	8.0	40.1	1,103	799	1.4		4.3
Machine Trades	2,388	4.0	15.5	12.2	4,003	724	5.5		11.1
Benchwork	3,161	5.3	14.2	52.0	4,176	1,337	3.1		9.7
Structural Work	25,699	43.4	6.0	1.6	10,613	554	19.2		25.6
Misc., and INA	9,542	16.2	8.8	8.2	9,464	1,542	6.1		9.0

* Long-term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

** Inexperienced and improperly coded job applicants are not included in this table.